



2013 ATNI Executive Committee

RESOLUTION #13 - 27

COMMENTS OF AFFILIATED TRIBES OF NORTHWEST INDIANS ON FCC TRIBAL MOBILITY FUND PHASE I AUCTION 902

PREAMBLE

We the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") is currently seeking comments on the record in regard to Tribal Mobility Fund Phase I Auction 902.

WHEREAS, communications systems are a critical 21st Century infrastructure on equal footing with power, water and roads, where communications coverage, quality and affordability have a real and substantial impact on the economic and social welfare of Indian people; and

WHEREAS, ATNI submits that communications services on Tribal Lands are commonly subpar, with communications carriers typically refusing or unresponsive in addressing issues of coverage, quality and cost even despite new Tribal Engagement requirements; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (“NCAI”) and Native Public Media (“NPM”) are submitting to the FCC comments for the record in regard to aforementioned Tribal Mobility Funds; and

WHEREAS, ATNI, in representing the interests of our Member Tribes, wholeheartedly agrees with the positions of and is in support of facts presented by NCAI and NPM and provides our support in full force regarding critical issues brought forth regarding Spectrum, Access to Capital, Quality of Service, Population, and Tribal Engagement; and

WHEREAS, ATNI applauds the FCC’s policy initiatives to improve communications services for Indian Country in addition to the significant efforts of its Office of Native Affairs and Policy (“ONAP”) in educating Tribal Nations on issues and opportunities as such; and

WHEREAS, ATNI urges the FCC strongly consider and duly act upon the issues presented by NCAI and NPM in order to better carry out its efforts in providing realistic and attainable opportunities to holistically address the significant and real communications issues on Tribal Lands; now

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI submits its comments on the record here and through the full support of NCAI and NPM’s thoughtful and thorough submission regarding FCC Tribal Mobility Phase I, Auction 902. We respectfully request strong consideration, and, as appropriate, introduction and enactment, in the Federal Communications Commission’s processes, for the policy reasons cited above; and to further tribal sovereignty.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2013 ATNI Board Conference Call meeting in Portland, Oregon, Washington, on May 10, 2013 with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary